

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

Advent is the time for us to make this preparation by repenting of our sins, and renewing our lives through prayer, penance, and sharing our blessings with others. John the Baptist, challenges our superficial attempts at change, demanding that we take a deeper look. Obeying the commandments is a good start, but we must also examine our relationships with others. We must mend ruptures and frictions, face family responsibilities, work honestly, and treat employees justly. Start where you are, wait for the Lord with repentant hearts and reformed lives. We can start by praying from the heart. Because conversion is through Jesus, whom we encounter mainly through the Holy Scripture and the sacraments. The Word and the sacraments are the principal means God uses to enliven men's souls. So, try to read the Bible, pray the rosary daily, do the Sacrament of reconciliation and we should practice forgiving those who offend us. This is how we can prepare ourselves for the birth of Christ.

Let us also remember, the often repeated words of Alexander Pope: **"What does it profit me if Jesus is reborn in thousands of cribs all over the world and not reborn in my heart"**? He means that Jesus must be reborn in our heart, during this season of Advent, and every day of our lives, bringing us love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness and spirit of humble service. Finally, let us share our love with others as selfless and humble service. As Mother Teresa said **"Do small things but with great love"**.

Yours sincerely,

Rev. Vijaykumar Madani

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCD: Catholic Christian Discipleship

Class Times: Wednesday - December 11th

St. Stanislaus/Ss. Peter & Paul

in Gilman: **Grades K - 5: 3:40 - 5:00 p.m.**
Grades 6 - 11: 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

St. Michael/St. John

in Sheldon: **Grades K - 11: 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.**

++We look forward to our children's **Christmas** programs on **Sunday, December 15th** at St. John parish (10:30 a.m.) and at Ss. Peter & Paul parish (8:30 a.m.)

++A few reminders to our Ss. Peter & Paul CCD students and families regarding the Christmas program:

- 1.) Children in grades K-5 should plan to be in the church hall at 8:00 a.m. to get dressed and organized.
- 2.) Students in grades 6-11 are needed to help in the kitchen before or after Mass to help organize the desserts for the social afterward.
- 3.) Families of grades 6-11 are asked to provide the desserts.
- 4.) Students in grades 6-11 are encouraged to sing with our three song leaders for the Christmas play.

Please enjoy this season of Advent as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Blessings ~ **Georgi Whelan**

OUR WEEKLY GIVING

Ss. Peter & Paul	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 595.00
Loose	18.00
Total	613.00
Total from December 2, 2018	861.00
Christmas Flowers	135.00
Building Fund	411.00
St. Stanislaus	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 246.00
Loose	51.00
Total	297.00
Total from December 2, 2018	372.00
Christmas Flowers	65.00
Building Fund	242.00
St. John	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 545.00
Loose	52.00
Total	597.00
Total from December 2, 2018	581.00
Christmas Flowers	35.00
Building Fund	525.00
St. Michael	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 300.00
Loose	10.00
Total	310.00
Total from December 2, 2018	210.00
Christmas Flowers	65.00
Building Fund	103.00
<i>(Totals include only the basic collection)</i>	

Expressions of Discipleship

Catholic Services Appeal 2019-2020

The Annual Catholic Services Appeal is here! The appeal is a means by which we can all work together to love and care for the Church by sharing the gifts God has granted to us. Your participation is essential, not only to the success of the Catholic Services Appeal, but also your parish.

	Assessment	Received	Amount Due
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,354.00	\$ 2,220.00	\$ 9,134.00
St. John	\$ 8,870.00	\$ 970.00	\$ 7,900.00
St. Stanislaus	\$ 5,421.00	\$ 2,480.00	\$ 2,941.00
St. Michael	\$ 2,860.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,360.00

Henri Nouwen writes: "The art of living is to enjoy what we can see and not complain about what remains in the dark. When we are able to take the next step with the trust that we will have enough light for the step that follows, we can walk through life with joy and be surprised at how far we go." **Let us pray for light to see the path to the manger this Advent.**

OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK

